GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:174
ANSWERED ON:18.07.2016
Illegal Mining
Jena Shri Rabindra Kumar;Ram Shri Vishnu Dayal

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the illegal mining activities across the country, if so, the details thereof indicating number of reported cases of illegal mining during each of the last three years, State/UT-wise;

(b) the estimated revenue loss incurred to the Government therefrom and the number of officials reportedly killed/died while checking the illegal mining during the said period, State/UT-wise;

(c) the action taken by the Government against the persons involved in the illegal mining and the extent of success achieved in this regard;

(d) the other corrective steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check illegal mining and for the safety of the Government employees in the country; and

(e) whether the Government is considering to adopt satellite technique to put a check on illegal sand-mining, if so, the details thereof?

Answer

(a) State Governments are empowered, under Section 23C of the Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act, 1957) to make rules for prevention of illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals; and, therefore, matters relating to illegal mining come under the legislative and administrative jurisdiction of State Governments.

As per quarterly returns submitted by the State Governments on illegal mining to India Bureau of Mines(IBM) (a subordinate office under the Ministry of Mines), the cases of illegal mining for major and minor minerals reported in the country for the years 2013-14 to 2015-16 (Quarter ending December 2015) are at Annexure-I to Annexure-III.

(b) As per quarterly returns submitted by the State Governments on illegal mining to IBM, the value of mineral reported against the number of cases detected for illegal mining are at Annexure-I to Annexure-III.

(c) As per Section 23C of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act 1957, State governments are empowered to frame rules for curbing illegal mining and to take action in the matter. However, as stated in reply to (a) & (b) above, based on the quarterly returns received from the State Governments., total numbers of FIR lodged, Court Cases filed and Fine realized for the years 2013-14 to 2015-16 (Quarter ending December 2015) is provided below:

Year
Major minerals Minor minerals Total
(Major + Minor) minerals
FIR lodged (Nos.) Court cases filed (No) Fine realized (Rs. Lacs) FIR lodged (Nos.) Court cases filed (Nos.) Fine realized (Rs. Lacs) FIR lodged (Nos.) Court cases filed (Nos.) Fine realized (Rs. Lacs)
2013-14 518 258 798.26 3331 10666 23107.93 3849 10924 23906.19
2014-15 404 227 1563.59 3835 9057 29032.24 4239 9284 30595.83
2015-16 (Quarter ending December 2015) 711 282 572.41 4079 13945 27599.53 4790 14227 28171.94

(d) The MMDR Act, 1957 was amended through the MMDR Amendment Act, 2015 which came into effect from 12th January, 2015. The Amendment Act has, inter alia, provided for stringent punitive provisions for combating illegal mining. Illegal mining has been made punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to five years and with fine which may extend to five lakh rupees per hectare of the area. Provisions have been made for setting up of Special Courts for the purpose of providing speedy trial of offences relating to illegal mining.

(e) Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), Nagpur has entered into a MoU with National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), Hyderabad on 21.01.2016 for a pilot project "Sudoor Drushti" to demonstrate the feasibility of using High Resolution Satellite imagery and Digital

Elevation Model (DEM) in monitoring mining activities / changes over a period of time over selected group of mines.

The Ministry of Mines has also engaged with Bhaskaracharya Institute of Space Applications & Geo-Informatics (BISAG), Gujarat to develop a 'Mine Surveillance System' (MSS) for major minerals in consultation with Indian Bureau of Mines to enhance the mechanism of detecting illegal mining with the use of satellite based technology.

*****